

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A networked computing environment for providing network services to computing devices, the networked computing environment comprising:

a communication network operable to communicate with a plurality of computing devices; and

configuration information associated with the communication network, the configuration information describing a configuration for computing devices connected to the communication network;

wherein the communication network, upon the computing device dynamically establishing a network connection to the communication network, provides at least some configuration information to the computing device, such that the computing may automatically configure itself according to the configuration information.

2. The networked computing environment of Claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes information identifying computing device features that should be accessible or available while connected to the communication network.

3. The networked computing environment of Claim 2, wherein the configuration information further includes information identifying computing device features that should not be accessible or available while connected to the communication network.

4. The networked computing environment of Claim 3, wherein the configuration information further includes information indicating whether computing device features not specifically identified in the configuration information and that are otherwise available on the computing device should or should not be accessible or available while connected to the communication network.

5. The networked computing environment of Claim 4, wherein the computing device features may include any one of software applications, hardware devices, system services and network services.

6. A computing system that automatically configures according to a detected network, the computing system comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

a network interface for connecting to a communication network;

wherein the computing system, upon dynamically establishing a connection to a communication network:

obtains configuration information associated with the communication network; and

automatically configures the itself according to the configuration information.

7. The computing system of Claim 6, wherein the configuration information includes information identifying computing system features that should be available while the computing system is connected to the communication network.

8. The computing system of Claim 7, wherein the configuration information further includes information identifying computing system features that should not be available while the computing system is connected to the communication network.

9. The computing system of Claim 8, wherein the configuration information further includes information indicating whether computing system features not specifically identified in the configuration information should or should not be available while the computing system is connected to the communication network.

10. The computing system of Claim 9, wherein the computing system features may include any one of software applications, hardware devices, system services and network services.

11. The computing system of Claim 6, wherein the computing system, upon detecting that the computing system is no longer connected to a communication network, the computing system configures itself according to default configuration information.

12. A method for automatically configuring a computing device according to a detected network, the method comprising:

detecting a change to the computing device's current network connection;

obtaining configuration information corresponding to the computing device's current network connection; and

automatically configuring the computing device according to configuration information.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the configuration information includes information identifying computing device features that should be available while the computing device is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computing device according to the configuration information comprises making available those computing device features that should be available while the computing device is connected to the communication network.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the configuration information further includes information identifying computing device features that should not be available while the computing device is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computing device according to the configuration information further comprises making unavailable those computing device features that should not be available while the computing device is connected to the communication network.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the configuration information further includes an indicator identifying whether computing device features not specifically identified in the configuration information should or should not be available while the computing device is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computing device according to the configuration information further comprises making available or unavailable computing device features not specifically identified in the configuration information according to the indicator while the computing device is connected to the communication network.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the computing device features may include any one of software applications, hardware devices, system services and network services.

17. The method of Claim 12 further comprising, upon detecting that the computing device is no longer connected to a communication network, the computing device configures itself according to default configuration information.

18. A computer-readable medium, having computer-readable instructions, which when executed on a computer, carry out the method comprising:

detecting a change to the computer's current network connection;

obtaining configuration information corresponding to the computer's current network connection; and

automatically configuring the computer according to configuration information.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the configuration information includes information identifying computer features that should be available while the computer is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computer according to the configuration information comprises making available those computer features that should be available while the computer is connected to the communication network.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the configuration information further includes information identifying computer features that should not be available while the computer is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computer according to the configuration information further comprises making unavailable those computer features that should not be available while the computer is connected to the communication network.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the configuration information further includes an indicator identifying whether computer features not specifically identified in the configuration information should or should not be available while the computer is connected to the communication network, and wherein automatically configuring the computer

according to the configuration information further comprises making available or unavailable computer features not specifically identified in the configuration information according to the indicator while the computer is connected to the communication network.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the computer features may include any one of software applications, hardware devices, system services and network services.

23. The method of Claim 22 further comprising, upon detecting that the computer is no longer connected to a communication network, the computer configures itself according to default configuration information.

24. A method for automatically configuring a computing device according to a detected triggering event, the method comprising:

automatically detecting an occurrence of a triggering event;
selecting configuration information for the computing device previously associated with the detected triggering event; and
configuring the computing device according to selected configuration information.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the detected triggering event is the arrival of the computing device in a predetermined geographical area.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the detected triggering event is the occurrence of a particular date.

27. The method of Claim 24, wherein the detected triggering event is the occurrence of a particular day of the week.

28. The method of Claim 24, wherein the detected triggering event is the occurrence of a particular time of day.

29. The method of Claim 24, wherein the detected triggering event is a change in the detected network connection.